(c) whether the existing customers of the VSNL network would be able to utilise its services of VSNL in the NLD telephone system; and

(d) what would be the investment in this new upcoming project by VSNL ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. By middle of 2002.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Existing customers of BSNL network will be able to utilise the services of VSNL in the NLD telephone system depending upon the final decision about selection of NLD operator by customers.

(d) About Rs. 1800 crores.

Call traffic through PSTN switches

2598. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether, as reported in Statesman of June 23, 2000, Government have been contemplating a move to allow call traffic through PSTN switches on capacity, leased out to private parties, whereby consumers could be benefited from considerably cheaper tariffs; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal and what decision has been taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The news-item referred here appeared in the Statesman dated June 23, 2001. As per the recommendations of TRAI in respect of opening of International Long Distance Service to private sector, which has been accepted by the Government, re-sellers are not permitted.

Implementation of CPP

2599. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hon'ble High Court have struck down the impugned regulations and implementation of Calling Party Pay (CPP) in the form prevalent at the time of hearing;

(b) if so, whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was to rework the arrangements as clarified by the Hon'ble judges; and

(c) the details of the revised arrangements for the introduction of CPP regime ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble High Court had struck down the regulation and stayed the implementation of the CPP regime contained in the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Interconnection (Charges and Revenue Sharing—First Amendment) Order, 1999 (3 of 99) dated 17th September, 1999.

(b) In its order, the Hon'ble Court had, *inter alia*, mentioned the following :

"The Authority may consider whether the CPP regime or a free incoming call regime can be introduced within the terms and conditions of the existing licences and within the policy as framed by the Government".

(c) Government has since amended the relevant licence condition which has cleared the way for implementation of CPP regime. TRAI had issued a consultation paper which discussed the desirability of the scheme or otherwise, tariff-related and technical issues related to CPP. The consultation process has not been completed as yet. TRAI will take a view on the matter, after completion of the consultation process in due course.

Restriction on number of operators in International Communication Services

†2600. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any recommendation has been made to restrict the number of Operators engaged in International Communication Services so that competitive atmosphere may be created to render better facilities;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) the extent to which business and earnings of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited is likely to be affected on account of this policy ?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.